

Adult Education Advisory Committee
February 9, 2005
Utah State Office of Education
Room 241
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Approved Minutes

PRESENT: Members: James Andersen (chair), Kim Dohrer (past chair), Paula Oakey (chair elect), Suzette Hudson, Cindy Krueger, Edie Mitko, Wayne Mifflin, Norman Nakamura, Herb Clark, Mary Ann Parkinson, Edwin Espinel, Andrea Worthen (for Don Carpenter), Yvonnne Coiner (for David Peterson), Don Uchida, Dave Steele, Sandra Grant, Jeff Galli, and Gail Burningham (secretary). Others: Sue Myers, David Frost and Jack Burgess, Murray Meszaros.

EXCUSED: Shauna South.

Welcome and Introductions

The Adult Education Advisory meeting was held February 9, 2005 at the Utah State Office of Education in room 241. James Andersen welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced him/herself and stated the group they represent.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the January 12, 2005 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve January's minutes, after corrections were made, was made by Don Uchida. Cindy Krueger seconded the motion and the minutes with corrections were approved. Corrections to the minutes were two typing errors and on page 2 the age information after "adult population" was incorrect and deleted.

Legislative Update

Dave explained about legislative process. He first talked about House Bill 232, which is being sponsored in the House by Representative Ray and in the Senate by Senator Knudson. This bill has to do with alternative assessment for adults because the current U-BSCT test is given so few times that it has an impact on when adults can graduate, Pell grants, employment, military service, etc. There is still a problem with the way it is written because line 49 says an alternative test and has an assigned a dollar amount of 1.5 million, which is the cost to develop a test. The original intent was that local boards would make a decision as to which test. That section must be amended either in committee or on the floor. Dave suggested that the advisory committee contact the Education Standing Committee and talk about how important this bill is to adults. Don suggested we contact the Special Education Department about the House Bill 232 because it impacts special education students as well. Dave's handouts included a copy of H. B. 232, a list of members of the Education Standing Committee and other committees, and Senate information from the web.

Dave explained how to contact and get information to a Senator or a member of the House of Representatives. The Utah State Senate information web site is www.utahsenate.org. Go to bill browser and find the number of the bill, the sponsor or do a search by title or subject. On the web you can also get the House of Representative roster, which gives contact information. Dave

talked about the financial situation for adult education funding and said every day there seems to be some give and some take. James mentioned that we lost a little in the governor's budget however the legislative analyst has a restoration of 1.6 million (from the Education Appropriations Committee). It was mentioned that Pamela Atkinson, Dave Steele and James Andersen testified before the Education Appropriations Committee requesting the restoration of 2.6 million to adult education funding. The focus was on both restoring the money and the benefits of adult education. Norman mentioned that there is a bill in Congress to block grant. This could mean that WIA funds, adult basic education and some training funds would be distributed through the governor's office.

Day on the Hill

Dave Steele addressed the final plans for "Day on the Hill" and encouraged everyone to participate. "Day on the Hill" is February 24th the opening meeting is in room 125 West. Senator Hale will address the group at 9 a.m. There will be five life-sized silhouettes of GED recipients. We will pass out success stories and letters of support, which we are collecting and forwarding to Dave's office. Letters of support from government agencies cannot be contrary to the governor's budget. There will also be a PowerPoint presentation set up. Kim Dohrer said that she would send a letter to adult education directors encouraging their support for the "Day On the Hill" activities.

Kim Dohrer and Cindy Kruger demonstrated how to talk to a legislator by role playing the process with Dave Steele. The key points were to let the legislator know who you are, whether or not you live in their district and give them your contact information. Recognize the legislator; tell them what you would like (will you, or I would like you to) and try to do it in a non-threatening way. Have something to hand the legislator such as a letter or fact sheet and tell them your story. These interactions usually take about 60 seconds. How to respond to the "second chance" for adults was discussed. A response could be that these individuals could make better decisions now and that they now pay some tuition. Also a large number did not have a first chance as many are immigrants and others had circumstances beyond their control that may not have given them a quality first chance. There was a discussion as to how our members in the business community might respond to questions by legislators.

Adult Education State-wide MIS System

Jack Burgess was introduced and he gave the advisory committee an overview of the adult education statewide MIS system. Jack went through all of the program window screens on how to register a student, including what data is to be given, how you would report credits, attendance etc. This system will keep track of students, credits, SEOP's, test scores and URAED reporting information.

Kim pointed out some problems she would have in entering information on students who are not enrolled in specific classes. Students with disabilities present additional reporting obstacles. Jack informed us that the first priority is to build the system so that the URAED report (federal) will work accurately. They will take one item or problem at a time so the system will be changed and improved and will be able to generate accurate information. He suggested that requests for additional information to be generated be given to him. These will be prioritized, however, the URAED report is the first priority.

There was a lengthy discussion as to the hopes of what we might want this system to be able to do as well as some of the concerns with the current state system for GED and information reporting. There could be problems with course names, how to report attendance, and reporting disabilities. Could all people who pass the GED be downloaded into the system? There was a discussion that the system should meet federal and local needs. Norman Nakamura mentioned that this should be part of a data warehouse system that would meet the need of several agencies to provide information that would help support and give direction to the agencies. There could possibly be a data exchange authorization worked out with several agencies. Dave said training would be provided for the implementation of this new system. It is hoped that implementation will start in July 2005.

Lunch

Other Business

GED

Murray Meszaros explained the issue of the Spanish GED versus the English GED and there was a discussion as to whether they should be valued the same. In order to post the credit properly for adult high school completion classes it is necessary to know in which language it was taken. This information is not noted on the certificate, but is on the e-Transcript, which can be printed. About 150 are taken in Spanish each year. Presently some parts can be taken in English and some in Spanish, and the scores can be combined. Edwin talked about the fact that there should be ample accommodations in the language in which the GED test is being given. Edie said that the GED opens doors for people and it was up to the person accepting the GED to make the decision. Kim was concerned that language arts credit for the Spanish GED could be put in an English credit category.

There is a bill to give 16-year-old students the option of taking the GED for an “early out” of high school. What happens in the legislative sessions will affect the GED. There will be more discussion on the GED issue in Moab.

Agenda Items for March’s Meeting

- Look at the impact of legislation and set advisory committee goals for next year.
- Continue discussion on GED.

Adjourn

Jim Andersen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy moved to adjourn the meeting and Edie seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. The next meeting will be held March 9, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in room 241.